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Chief Justice Names New Statewide Task Force on Domestic Violence

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Retired Presiding Justice Laurence D. Kay to Head State Panel

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San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of a new statewide task force that will study ways to improve practice and procedure in domestic violence cases.

“This task force will recommend ways to improve the administration of justice in cases involving domestic violence,” said Chief Justice George. “Our goals are to ensure fair, expeditious, and accessible justice for litigants in these critical cases and to promote both victim safety and perpetrator accountability.”

The Chief Justice named recently retired Presiding Justice Laurence D. Kay, of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Four (San Francisco) as chair of the 15-member statewide panel, which includes appellate justices, trial court judges, and court executive officers.

The task force is charged with developing best practices for domestic violence cases in California courts. The first priority of the task force will be to review the recent report of the Attorney General’s Task Force on Local Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence, issued in June 2005, and to consider implementation of court-related recommendations.

The recommendations under consideration generally relate to improvements in protective order forms, development of guidelines in domestic violence cases, and improvement of the accurate and timely entry of restraining orders into the statewide database.

“The creation of this task force is a recognition of the significant issues presented in domestic violence cases,” said Justice Kay. “We will address these issues calling upon the combined expertise, collaboration, and innovative thinking of judges and court administrators as well as our justice system and community partners.” A task force membership roster is attached. The task force is scheduled to end its service in September 2007.

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